

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04479 120728Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 100634

O R 120709Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5208

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4479

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SY, ET

SUBJ: CISCO II

REF: A. DAMASCUS 3055; B. STATE 261399; C. STATE 263680

1. EMBOFF GOT BACK TO UPI STRINGER OSTAWANI NOV 11 ABOUT JOURNALIST AHMAD ABU SAADAH (NOT ZAIDA), WHOM SHE STATED NOW EMPLOYED IN UPI DAMASCUS OFFICE. ACCORDING TO OSTWANI, AFTER SAADAH RETURNED FROM ERITREA LAST AUGUST WITH TAPE OF INTERVIEW WITH TWO AMERICAN PRISONERS (REF A) HE MADE FULL REPORT OF HIS ACTIVITIES TO SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE. SHE ADDED THAT HE WORKS CLOSELY WITH INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND IS ON GOOD TERMS WITH LOCAL ERITREAN REPS. SHE DESCRIBED HIM AS "COMMUNIST." SHE SAID THAT HE HOPING TO RETURN TO ERITREA AND AWAITING DEFINITE APPROVAL FOR VISIT IN NEAR FUTURE. SHE SAID SHE WOULD GIVE EMBOFF PHONE NUMBER WHERE HE COULD BE REACHED, BUT WARNED THAT HE UNLIKELY TO AGREE TO ANYTHING THAT WOULD POTENTIALLY UNDERMINE EITHER HIS CLOSE RAPPORT WITH ERITREANS OR HIS CHANCES TO RETURN TO ERITREA. SHE INSISTED SHE NOT BE INVOLVED IN AFFAIR IN ANY WAY AND REMARKED THAT WE COULD ASSUME ANYTHING WE SAID TO HIM WOULD BE PASSED ON TO SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE.

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2. IN VIEW OF LIKELIHOOD THAT EMBASSY CONTACT WITH

ABU SAADAH WILL REACH SYRIANS, POSSIBLY IN DISTORTED
FASHION AND BE MISUNDERSTOOD, WE ARE RELUCTANT PURSUE
HIM FURTHER UNLESS DEPT JUDGES THAT POTENTIAL BENEFITS
OUTWEIGHT RISKS. ADVISE.
PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, NEGOTIATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC04479
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750393-0336
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751151/aaaabtop.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 DAMASCUS 3055, 75 STATE 261399, 75 STATE 263680
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CISCO II
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SY, ET, US, (HARREL, JAMES), (CAMPBELL, STEVEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006